



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E338137Z1

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Sequential patch burning

Conservation Practice 338: Prescribed Burning

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Forest

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Conduct prescribed under burning beneath the canopy of a conifer forest, burning a portion of the area each year to create a mosaic of vegetation in several stages of development, to provide a more diverse understory and contribute to wildlife habitat. The health of conifer forests, particularly longleaf pine with a characteristic herbaceous understory, is dependent on fire or another means of controlling encroaching woody vegetation. A healthy longleaf pine forest, as well as shortleaf and other pines, can support a wide array of wildlife including pollinators and several endangered or threatened species.

Criteria

- States will apply general criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) 338 as listed below, **and additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.**
- Apply to conifer forests of species that are adapted to frequent low-intensity ground fires, where undesirable understory vegetation has encroached.
- Selected areas of the enrolled land use acres will be underburned annually for a minimum of three consecutive years to create a mosaic of vegetation in different stages of development.
- Re-burning of already-burned areas during the cumulative year period is prohibited.
- Over the cumulative year period (three or more years) all acres will be underburned.



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- Prior to the burn, assess the existing fuel load. Determine the need for pre-treatment of vegetation and fuels, and for application of complementary CPSs such as Fuel Break (383), Firebreak (394), and Woody Residue Treatment (384).
- If invasive plants are present, utilize methods and timing that will prevent or control their spread.
- A written burn plan must be developed and all necessary approvals secured prior to conducting a prescribed burn. The plan will include the following components at a minimum:
 - Objectives of the burn and expected post-burn conditions.
 - Maps, images and/or descriptions of the proposed burn area and any associated or adjacent smoke sensitive areas.
 - Inventory of available fuels.
 - Required weather and fuel conditions under which the burn will be conducted.
 - Firing sequence and methods.
 - List of equipment and personnel needed and job assignments.
 - Any pre-burn preparation needed to safely and effectively conduct the burn
 - List of appropriate authorities, agencies, departments, individuals, and facilities to be contacted and necessary signatures of approval.
 - Checklist for a post-burn evaluation.
- Burning criteria:
 - Follow all components of the burn plan.
 - A current fire weather forecast is required prior to conducting a prescribed burn. Collect weather parameters and other data that affect fire behavior for the day of the burn and monitor the appropriate weather parameters during



the burn. Weather conditions outside those prescribed in the written plan will result in postponement or cessation of the burn.

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Documentation Requirements

- Specifications will be prepared by certified individuals and prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation. All necessary permits must be obtained and a burning plan developed that complies with state and local regulations, and NRCS policy, before implementation of the practice.
- Completed post-burn evaluation as required within burn plan.
- **Additional documentation as required by NRCS State Office.**